IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An elongated and flexible [~~A~~] medical guide wire to be inserted into a tubular balloon catheter comprising[:]

[~~an elongated and flexible core member;~~]

Q12 a front end having a front catheter engagement portion that is provisionally connected to a front end of the balloon catheter [~~provided around said core member and formed into a bulged shape or a truncated cone shape, a diameter of which progressively decreases as approaching a rear end of said front catheter engagement portion~~], wherein the front catheter engagement portion is formed from a mirror-finished barrel shaped portion, and the provisionally connected[~~; and said front catheter engagement portion being capped with a~~] balloon catheter [~~to provisionally connect said balloon catheter to said front catheter engagement portion so that said balloon catheter~~] is inserted into a blood vessel concurrently with [~~at the time when introducing a~~] the medical guide wire into said blood vessel.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The medical guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said mirror-finished shape of said front catheter engagement portion is cut at its outer surface [~~formed by depositing a solder or an adhesive on said core member~~].

4. (Original) The medical guide wire according to claim 1, wherein a provisionally connecting member is provided at a front open end of said balloon catheter to provisionally connect said balloon catheter to said front catheter engagement portion.

5. (Original) The medical guide wire according to claim 4, wherein said provisionally connecting member is a carve or a rolled end provided at said front open end of said balloon catheter.

6. (Currently Amended) The medical guide wire according to claim 11 [~~2~~], wherein said provisionally connecting member is a groove which fits [~~fit~~] into [~~said leading bulge portion formed by an~~] said ellipsoidal helical spring.

7. (Currently Amended) The medical guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said balloon catheter and said front catheter engagement portion are formed by a common synthetic resin to produce a coefficient of static friction therebetween, the coefficient of static friction having a magnitude that [~~of which~~] is determined to be enough to provisionally connect said balloon catheter to said front catheter engagement portion.

8. (Original) The medical guide wire according to claim 7, wherein said balloon catheter and said front catheter engagement portion are commonly formed by a synthetic resin selected from the group consisting of polyamide, polyvinyl chloride, polytetrafluoroethylene and polyethylene.

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9. (New) An elongated and flexible medical guide wire to be inserted into a tubular balloon catheter comprising a front end having a front catheter engagement portion that is provisionally connected to a front end of the balloon catheter, wherein the front catheter engagement portion is formed by an ellipsoidal helical spring, and the provisionally connected balloon catheter is inserted into a blood vessel concurrently with the medical guide wire into said blood vessel.

10. (New) The medical guide wire according to claim 9, wherein said ellipsoidal helical spring of said front catheter engagement portion comprises line elements, wherein a clearance appears between said line elements.

11. (New) The medical guide wire according to claim 9, wherein a provisionally connecting member is provided at a front open end of said balloon catheter to provisionally connect said balloon catheter to said front catheter engagement portion.

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12. (New) The medical guide wire according to claim 11, wherein said provisionally connecting member is a slot or a rolled end provided at said front open end of said balloon catheter.